AI Overview

Benin Independence Day is celebrated annually on **August 1st**. It marks the country's official freedom from French colonial rule in 1960, when it was originally named the Republic of Dahomey before changing its name to Benin in 1975.

Historical Background

- Gained full independence on **August 1, 1960**, after functioning as a self-governing autonomous republic within the French Community.
- **Hubert Maga** became the newly independent nation's first president.
- The country was renamed from Dahomey to the **People's Republic of Benin** in 1975, later becoming the Republic of Benin in 1990.

Traditions and Celebration

- Observed as a national **public holiday** across the country.
- Features official **military parades**, public addresses from national leaders, and flag-raising ceremonies.
- Communities celebrate with traditional **music, drumming, and dance performances**, alongside local culinary feasts honoring Beninese heritage.

Would you like to learn more about **Benin's history**, or are you looking for details on specific **cultural traditions** associated with the country?

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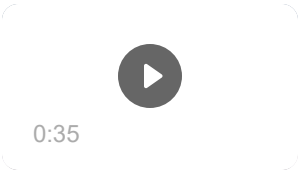

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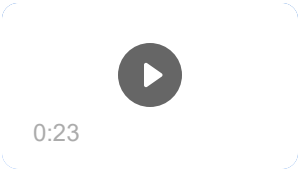

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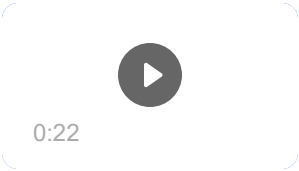

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